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issue 13, volume 85 www.newbuffalotimes.com Thursday, March 26, 2026

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— PAGES 10-11 —

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Farmers requesting annexation spark data center speculation

BY STAN MADDUX

The City of La Porte has received a request to annex more than 1,000 acres of farmland.

The request from all of the multiple property owners has triggered speculation that it's for construction of another data center beside the one Microsoft just started constructing on the city's south side.

"I don't buy for one minute that there's not an offer from either Microsoft, Amazon or one of the big data centers to add on to this project," said La Porte County Commissioner Steve Holifield, a farmer who's against the proposed annexation.

La Porte Economic Advancement Partnership Executive Director Bert Cook said signed petitions from the property owners seeking annexation were submitted to the city council on March 16.

A public hearing on the request is scheduled April 13 during the La Porte City Council meeting at City Hall beginning at 6 p.m.

Drawing concern from nearby property owners is the site being next to where Microsoft recently started moving dirt for a data center it's constructing on Boyd Boulevard just east of U.S. 35.

The data center site is on nearly 500 acres of what's historically been farmland the city annexed a few years ago at the request of the property owners, who later sold the ground to Microsoft.

Cook would not reveal if there were any ties between the latest annexation request and Microsoft or some other technology firm looking to put up a data center.

He preferred allowing further details to come out later as it normally does while following the standard procedures involved with this or any other formal request.

In general, Cook said annexation is sought from landowners wanting their properties served by municipal water and sewer since the city no longer extends lines to areas outside the corporate boundaries.

Cook said utility service makes vacant ground, for example, more valuable to prospective buyers looking to develop the property.

In recent months, residents in the area have gone to multiple La Porte County Commissioners' meetings to express concerns about having their lifestyles damaged from another data center possibly near the Microsoft site.

Their speculation has been fueled by things like the occasional presence of surveyors in the area of the Microsoft site.

Holifield said he's not opposed to data centers here as long as they go into the more secluded Kingsbury Industrial Park about four miles south of the city.

He's strongly against them being placed on farmland and near existing homeowners.

Holifield said he supports landowners' rights except when it comes at a cost for other residents nearby.

"You can do what you want with your property, but you do not have the right to destroy your neighbor's enjoyment of their property," he said.

Holifield said there's probably nothing county government can do to stop the city from potentially annexing the property, but "it's about time someone stood up."

La Porte County Commissioner Joe Haney also questioned the need for a data center anywhere in the county given the uncertainties about the impact they could have on things like utility rates from the tremendous amount of power needed for them to operate.

Haney also said there are still lingering concerns about the amount of water needed to cool the servers in data centers and if that would harm ground water.

"Those are things we have to look at very, very carefully," he said.

Timing is fast; speed is slow; and, of course, slow is fast. — *Dino N. Fatouros*

LAKESIDE ASSOCIATION EGG HUNT SCHEDULED FOR NEXT MONTH

The annual Lakeside Association Easter Egg Hunt, hosted with the help of Chikaming Parks and Recreation for kids of all ages and parents, will take place at 1 p.m. Saturday, April 4, at Harbert Community Park at 13411 Red Arrow Highway in Harbert.

Parking is available directly adjacent to the park and registration will take place in the Historical Pavilion in the center of the park. The event will be organized into five age groups for sequential egg hunts. So that the adults are part of the fun, a special event will take place to let the grown-ups test their hunting skills.

The first 50 children will receive a set of free bunny years. And Peter Cottontail will be on hand to pose for pictures. Remember to bring your own basket or bag to gather eggs.

For questions call, 269-405-5772.

For more on The Lakeside Association, visit www.thelakesideassociation.com. —

STAFF REPORTS

Local Government Meetings

New Buffalo Times

Democracy Requires Transparency

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CITY OF NEW BUFFALO PLANNING COMMISSION MEETINGS
Meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 5:30PM
NEW BUFFALO TOWNSHIP BOARD
HOWARD MALES, MICHELLE HEIT, MICHELLE HANNON, PATTY IAZZETTO, BARBARA ANDERSON
Board meets on the 3rd Monday of each month at 4PM
NEW BUFFALO TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
Meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 6:30PM
SHERIFF BERRIEN COUNTY
Sheriff, Chuck Heit
Undersheriff, Greg Sanders
NEW BUFFALO AREA RECREATIONAL AUTHORITY
Meets at 9AM on the 2nd Wednesday of every other month (odd) at New Buffalo Township Hall, 17425 Red Arrow Highway New Buffalo
NEW BUFFALO AREA SCHOOLS BOARD
LISA WERNER, JOHN HASKINS, DENISE CHURCHILL, JENNIFER SUMMERS, VANESSA THUN, STEPHEN DONNELLY, GREG VOSBERG
The Board meets on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month at 6PM
CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP
CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP BOARD
DAVID BUNTE, PAULA DUDIAK, LIZ RETTIG, RICHARD SULLIVAN, ARTHUR ANDERSON
Chikaming Board meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 6:30PM
CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
Meets on the 1st Wednesday of each month at 6:30PM
THREE OAKS
THREE OAKS TOWNSHIP BOARD
Meets on the 2nd Monday of each month at 7PM
VILLAGE OF THREE OAKS BOARD
Meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7PM
GRAND BEACH
Meets on the 3rd Wednesday at 5PM EST
KIMBERLY WOLNIK, CLERK-TREASURER
HARRY WALDER, JACK GRACE, ED SEBASTIAN, PETER DOERR, EDWARD BRANDES
MICHIANA
VILLAGE OF MICHIANA COUNCIL
Meets on the 2nd Friday of each month at 1PM

Village council awards contracts for future police station work

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

Members of the Grand Beach Village Council approved some items for a future joint police station between the villages of Grand Beach and Michiana at their Wednesday, March 18, meeting.

Last November, voters approved an increase in the village's General Operating millage by 3.2463 mills ($3.2463) by overriding the Headlee Amendment and bringing the Village's current general operating millage of 5.7537 to 9 mills. This will result in approximately $628,000 in additional tax revenue for the village to help pay for Major Unfunded Projects: Beach Nourishment, Road improvements, Golf course Irrigation System, and Police Station.

At the March 18 meeting, council member and police commissioner Ed Brandes said that the villages have jointly applied for a grant through Rep. Tim Walberg's office to obtain federal funding to cover some of the project costs for the station.

Council president Harry Walder said the items were for predesign/preconstruction work.

Councilmembers approved awarding a contract to Midwest Biological Survey LLC for wetland delineation at the future site for the station not to exceed $3,000, a cost that will be split equally between Grand Beach and Michiana.

Walder said that stakes need to be put in to identify the wetland area, so it can be avoided during any future construction.

Council members also approved awarding a contract to Stephenson Land Surveyors for topography for the station, as Walder said the architect needs to do a design and boundary survey, not to exceed $5,100, and awarding a contract to Wightman Engineering for a site plan not to exceed $18,000. The costs for both projects will be split with Michiana.

Work on the above projects will not proceed until Michiana's Village Council also approves the funding.

Councilmembers approved appointing Keith Kehoe as Department of Public Works Superintendent/Water Superintendent. He will replace Bob Dabbs, who Walder said is no longer with the village.

Council members approved 2026 Golf Cart Sticker Policy updates.

Updates include language that states that "temporary stickers can only be purchased by residents for a maximum of two weeks." Other language states that "carts rented from an outside cart agency are required to be stickered while in the Village of Grand Beach. Carts operators without permanent stickers will be ticketed."

Council members also approved the purchase of 2026 golf cart stickers from Art & Image for $478.50.

Council members approved a Natural Areas Land Management Agreement with Chikaming Open Lands for the Grand Beach Nature Preserve. Walder said that the village doesn't incur any financial obligations from it and COL would need to get approval from them regarding anything they'd want to spend money on.

Brandes said it's a "good, solid agreement," with Walder adding that they're "heading in the right direction with the Nature Preserve."

Council members approved COL applying for a grant to get an Aquatic Nuisance Control Permit through EGLE.

Walder said COL has come to the village with two grants they want to pursue. Regarding the first one, as a match for the grant request, which is about $7,000, COL may ask to share a cost with the village and HOA for two controlled burns in 2028 and 2029 if other funds aren't secured. The second grant, a Grand Beach Marsh Prescribed Fire Proposal, has no financial obligation to the village.

Council members approved a quote for $1,093.75 to BJ's Lockshop for lock mechanisms repairs to all doors in the upstairs hall.

A quote from National Technology Management for a cost not to exceed $1,597 for a new computer and printer, plus installation/transfer fees at the Pro Shop was approved.

A contract to Custom Fence for repairing the fence at the Water Tower and adding a double 8-foot-wide gate, two 4-foot leaves, all for the sum of $4,500 was approved.

The 2026 contract for the Michigan High School Athletic Association Boys Golf season was approved.

Council members approved an Employee Social Media Policy and End User IT Policy.

Council members approved of the Planning Commission's appointment of Diane Cody as their representative on the Short-Term Rental Committee to fill the vacancy left by Blake O'Halloran.

Ross Kerr, planning commission chair, said that planners agreed at their meeting the previous week to hold a community town hall that would address the ongoing issue of trash receptacles in the village, with the goal to possibly "get some rules in place that make sense for as many as possible," in April.

In a 4-0 vote, with Blake O'Halloran abstaining, planners approved to move forward with a public hearing around a proposed zoning ordinance language change that would incorporate short-term rentals as permitted use and would omit them from being subjected to the special land use provisions. Kerr said they're targeting a public hearing for this for July, which would ensure that many people could have input.

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BLOSSOMTIME PAGEANTS ON TAP FOR NEXT MONTH

Tickets are now available for the 2026 Miss Blossomtime and Mr. Blossomtime Pageant/ Showcase of Queens is back.

This year's theme, "Blossomtime. . . Oh the places you will see," has inspired two wonderful evenings of entertainment, music, and glamour. Hosting the evening festivities for the Blossomtime Festival will be Lainie Lu Von Behren, a former Miss Blossomtime and Phil McDonald, AD to Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Schools for the two-day show. The 2025 Mr. Blossomtime, Ross Bettich, will be crowning the 29th Mr. Blossomtime at the Mr. Blossomtime and Showcase of Queens Pageant at 6:30 p.m. Sunday, April 12. The 2025 Miss Blossomtime, Ava Starbuck, will be crowning our 93rd Miss Blossomtime at the Miss Blossomtime Pageant the following evening at 7 p.m. Monday, April 13.

General admission tickets for both nights $40, and Limited Seating Premier tickets for both nights are $45 each. The program price for both evenings will be $10. The Mr. Blossomtime Pageant/Showcase of Queens and Miss Blossomtime pageants are held at Lake Michigan College, Mendel Center Mainstage and is guaranteed to be two wonderful evenings with 21 community queens and 26 community kings vying for the titles of Miss and Mr. Blossomtime and their respective Royalty courts.

Please call the Blossomtime office at 269-982-8016 or stop by at 2330 S. Cleveland Avenue in St. Joseph to purchase your tickets in advance by cash or check.

Ticket availability is limited and may not be available at the door.

— STAFF REPORTS

Youth fair announces Grandstand line-up

Youth Fair officials have announced the 2026 lineup of grandstand entertainment acts for the year.

Starting off the week at 5 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 16, the BCYF will bring back the Street Legal Pickup Truck and Tractor Pull. After continued popularity and with no gate admission fee into the fair itself, this event is an affordable option for those looking to kick off the week a day early. This event is presented by Dale Seyfred – Pioneer Seed and Twin Maple Orchard in Galien, Michigan.

The NTPA Truck and Tractor Pull is slated to return at 7 p.m. Monday, Aug. 17, with a different set of classes than Sunday. This year's pull will again be an NTPA regional event and will feature 4WD Trucks, Super Farm, Hot Farm and Superstock Combo Tractors.

Country artist Jackson Dean

During "Kids Day" Tuesday, Aug. 18, the grandstand will feature three free Circus Continental shows.

At 7 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 19, country star, Jackson Dean will take the stage presented by United Federal Credit Union.

With his strong gravel-toned vocals, wayward spirit, intentional songwriting and overall mystique, Dean has earned a reputation for his impressive live show and thought-provoking, lyric-driven music. The young talent burst on the scene in 2022 with his atmospheric, musically forward debut album "Greenbroke" that featured his platinum debut single, "Don't Come Lookin'," which cemented Jackson as the youngest solo male Country artist to reach the top of the charts with a debut, and his gold certified follow up single "Fearless (The Echo)." The Maryland native has leaned hard into touring, building a passionate fanbase that connects on a deeper level – both on his headlining runs and as support for superstars including Toby Keith, Blake Shelton, Miranda Lambert, Lainey Wilson, Eric Church, Luke Bryan, Brantley Gilbert, Kane Brown, Brooks & Dunn, Lee Brice, HARDY and Brothers Osborne. Dean released new tracks "Be Your Man" and "Make A Liar" in 2025, and his track "Turn On The Lights" was used for T-Mobile's Friday Night 5G Lights 2025 competition. He just wrapped a highly successful run of his headlining On The Back Of My Dreams World Tour in Australia and New Zealand and closed out 2025 opening on select dates of Brad Paisley's Truck Still Works Tour.

Hitting the stage at 7 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 20, the BCYF is excited to bring THREE MEN and a TENOR – The Music of America for a free show. The group tours nationally, opening shows for entertainment legends like Jay Leno, Lee Greenwood, and The Beach Boys; and starred in their own national PBSTV special ("Three Men and a Tenor- In Concert" produced by DPTV - Detroit PBS) that was shown from Los Angeles to Nashville. They were voted "Michigan's Best Entertainment" four-times and twice toured Germany to perform at the U.S. Military Bases to support the troops and their families.

Returning at 8 p.m. Friday, Aug. 21, derby promoter TNT Demolition Derby, will bring back the crowd favorite demolition derby. Derby fans can expect to see classes such as Big Car Motor Swap, Big Car Lite Modifieds, Compact Welds, MWFA Street Stock, Small Car Stock FWD and Powerwheels for the kids.

At 7 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 22, fans can rest assured the BCYF has brought back the crowd favorite, Bullmania, including crowd favorite bull riding and kid favorite, mutton busting.

Tickets for all grandstand shows are on sale now at the Fair office, online at www.bcyf.org or by phone at 269-473-1500 (grandstand ticket fees do not include gate admission). All tickets purchased online will have an additional per ticket processing fee and a credit card convenience fee.

The 2026 Berrien County Youth Fair runs Aug. 17-22 with the theme of "Happy Birthday America!". — STAFF REPORTS

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SCHOLASTICS

School board approves middle school, high school science teacher hires

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

Members of the New Buffalo Area Schools Board of Education approved Lakeicha Hayes as middle school science teacher and the appointment of Angela Smith as high school science teacher at their Monday, March 23, meeting.

Superintendent Adam Bowen said that Hayes, who currently serves as paraprofessional at the elementary school and has two children in the school district, has experience as a science teacher in the Alabama area and has taught for many years at the middle and high school levels.

She also has experience in the STEAM and robotics arenas, he said, and used to teach in Niles.

"This is just a great natural step for her, and we're excited to see all the great things she can do for the district," Bowen said.

Regarding Smith's position, Bowen said that, through a meeting with himself, curriculum director Sam Stine, high school principal Tracy Ripley and school counselor Keri Haskins that analyzed the curriculum and teaching staff, it was determined that more help was needed for the science department.

Currently, Smith teaches one half of the day in middle school and the other half in high school.

Bowen added that some of their "cadence" with offerings are "off" due to lack of staff, with some courses only being offered every couple of years.

Hayes will teach science at the middle school in the morning and STEAM and computer science in the afternoon, which he said frees up Chris Beushausen to do a public speaking course, which they approved last trimester.

"So, it just puts another person in our middle school elective wheel in the afternoon, and it gives more robust electives," Bowen said, adding that she can also do a choir or theater class.

Board members approved the following overnight trips: 2026 Robotics Competition: April 9, 2026, through April 11, 2026; 2026 HS Quiz Bowl Competitions: April 17, 2026, through April 18, 2026; May 9, 2026, through May 10, 2026, and June 5, 2026, through June 7, 2026; 2026 5th Grade Camp: May 28, 2026, through May 29, 2026; 2027 Band Disney Trip: November 21, 2027, through November 27, 2027; 2027 World Travel Club/ Japan: March 25, 2027, through April 3, 2027 and 2026 Envirothon State Competition: May 12, 2026, through May 14, 2026.

Bowen said he hopes it'll be a more common practice toward the beginning of the year for board members to be aware of overnight student trips.

Board members approved the revised 2026 Daycare Handbook, with Bowen adding that a visit from the state warranted some changes.

A resolution authorizing and approving the execution and delivery of a Master Lease Purchase Agreement with Apple, Inc. was approved. The board had approved the lease of iPads for pre-kindergarten through eighth grade last meeting and some additional paperwork needed to be submitted to Apple to finalize the lease agreement.

Board members approved the Chikaming Township Agreement for Collection of Summer School Property Taxes.

Board members heard Lisa Knoll, Vance Price, and Leanne Lamport had been approved as middle school track coaches by Bowen.

Board members heard of the resignation for retirement purposes of elementary school teacher Kim Magro, effective June 10.

As part of the district's Strategic Plan, the following cabinet members gave updates on their respective departments for the District Scorecard: Tracy Ripley, high school principal, who also have an update for middle school principal Dan Caudle, who wasn't present; Melissa Lijewski, elementary school principal; Sam Stine, director of curriculum; Tom Whitsel, director of transportation; Mark German, director of operations; Diane Hyatt, special education director; Susan Martinic, director of food service; Madeline Selby, director of BASE; Jacob Stella, director of technology; Kate Nicolai, daycare director; Matt Johnson, athletic director and Dwayne Whitmyer, Performing Arts Center and STEAM Building director.

The community connections pillar continues to be one of the "strongest" one in the plan, Bowen said.

He added that the district is in the transitional phase of "trying to close out another year and maybe start thinking about opening up another year" regarding the strategic plan, with one more update and a possible peek at future goals slated for June.

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From the Bleachers

COLUMN BY KURT MARGGRAF IN CHICAGO

Hoops!!

My best friend Jim and I used to get in a lottery trying to obtain the rights to purchase tickets to the final four.

We were never successful, but it was our dream to be a part of the excitement. Both of us were big sports fans, rooting for the Bears, Bulls, Blackhawks, and Sox (Jim) or Cubs (me). When I started writing tonight I had no plans to take a trip down memory lane, but right now it's all I can think of. So hand me down my walking cane and I'll take you on a little trip.

My friend and I met on the first day of high school. We both made our high schools basketball team and along with a few more, became closer friends. We went to the same college, and attended every game we possibly could.

When we weren't studying, we talked sports (which gave us plenty of time to talk sports). While we were there, our college's basketball team produced an NBA hall of fame player (Walt Frazier) and another NBA player (Dick Garrett) and were NIT champions back in the time when that tournament was relevant.

A zillion pick up games later, our Bulls drafted Michael Jordan. Later we went to Las Vegas a few times during March Madness and had a blast. Hoops were a big part of our lives.

Baseball played a big part in our friendship too.

We played strikeout, softball,and fantasy baseball. Jim married a Sox fan and I married a Cub fan. Like we both did, our kids followed our lead. I actually cheered for the Sox when they won the championship, but I was cheering for my friends happiness more than the team itself.

When the Cubs won, they returned the favor, making the victory even sweeter. We went to numerous games together and had conversations about our teams over a beer or two on many summer nights.

Neither of us skated, but the Blackhawks were important to us too. I remember sitting on the front porch of the house we rented in college listening to the radio broadcast of Blackhawks games and feeling the excitement whenever Bobby Hull or Stan Mikita were mentioned.

Finally, da Bears. Back in the day, every Sunday afternoon was appointment television. They were often very bad, but we embraced their incompetence. It's hard to believe now, but home games used to be blacked out.

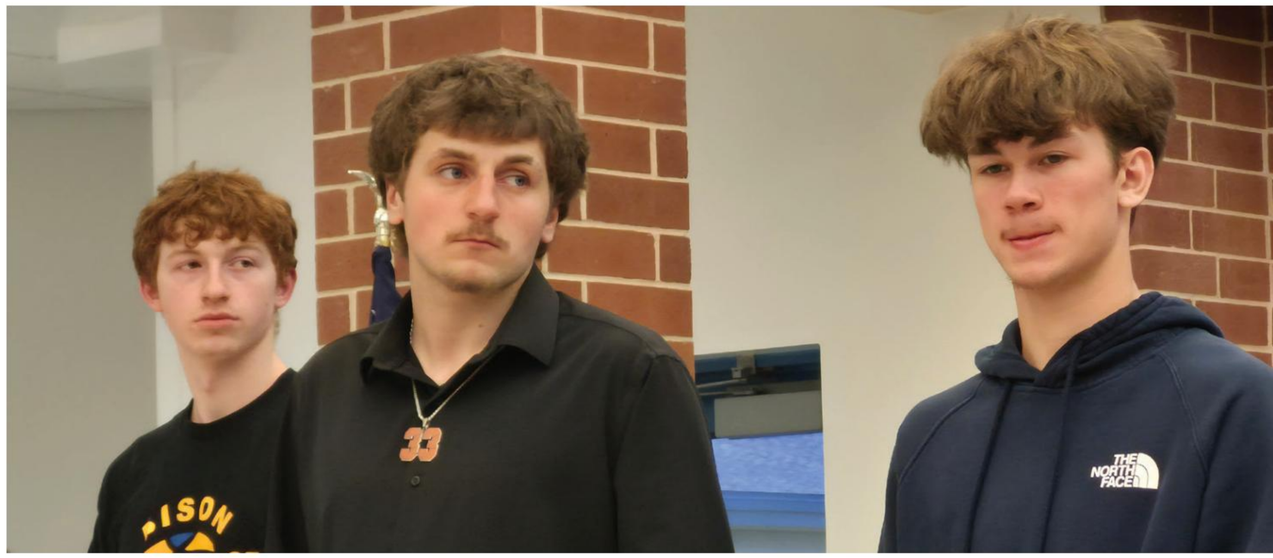
A bunch of us used to go to a local tavern that had antennas capable of pulling in the signal from out of state. We hosted a Super Bowl party in 1986 and had quite a celebration when the Bears crushed the Patriots.

I've been blessed with great parents, sisters, brother, wife, son, daughter, grandkids, extended family, and friends. Some of them have passed away and I really miss them but am thankful for having had them in my life. They were all important to me and I miss them all, but no one more than my friend Jim.

Helen Keller said, "Walking with a friend in the dark is better than walking alone in the light."

Be kind. Talk to you next week. Peace,love, and happiness.

I don't take any game or moment for granted.
— Jeremy Fears Jr.



Three Bison players named all-conference in boys' basketball

BY STAN MADDUX

Three members of the New Buffalo High School boys' basketball team, which won the District 4 championship this season, made all-conference.

Seniors Lucas Forker, Trevor James and Sam Tripp were among the 12 players named to the Berrien Cass St. Joseph all-conference team.

Senior Nick Haskins was named to the conference's honorable mention squad.

The announcement was made by Head Coach Nate Tripp during an awards banquet for the team Sunday in the cafeteria at New Buffalo High School.

It was the second year in a row that Forker, a 6'4" center and the team's leading scorer, made the all- conference team.

Forker also surpassed 1,000 points for his varsity career this season.

During the banquet, Forker was named the team's offensive player of the year while defensive player of the year went to sophomore Colten Lijewski.

Tripp predicted Lijewski, who's also a gifted football and baseball player, will become one of the most talked about top basketball players in the area on both sides of the court next year.

"He has the work ethic and the athleticism. He's a very coachable young man," he said.

The Heisman Award given for selfless play on the court was given to Tripp, a 6'1" guard, who has signed a letter of intent to play at Kuyper College, a Christian school at Grand Rapids in the National Christian College Athletic Association.

Forker has received interest from several colleges while James was encouraged by Tripp to continue his playing career at a small college.

Tripp also complimented James for his shooting form.

"It's a thing of beauty to watch. He does it exactly, mechanically the way it's supposed to be," he said.

James also received the big shot shooter award largely due to his clutch three-point shooting while the most improved player award went to senior Brysun Perry.

The Bison lost in the opening round of the regionals to Colon by seven points after leading at halftime.

Colon with about one minute left in the game was tied with Concord in the regional championship game but lost.

Concord went on to win the state title.

"That just shows you, we were this close," Tripp said.

This was the final year for the New Buffalo and River Valley high school basketball programs.

Both programs will merge and play next season as the Red Arrow Raiders due to gradual enrollment declines over the years.

"I think basketball in our little corner of the state, I think the future is very, very bright," he said.

Miss Gulch (Bianca Ilescas-Villa) confronts Auntie Em (Riley Castle-Brow), Uncle Henry (Jeff Remijas) and Dorothy (Angelina Bryk)

The Wicked Witch of the West (Biana Ilescas-Villa) unleashes her wrath in her chamber

Dorothy (Angelina Bryk) and Scarecrow (Henry Gadiel) encounter Tinman (Kellan Fallon)

The Munchkins perform a song and dance number

Audiences transported to the wonderful world of 'Oz'

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

Members of the community were invited to journey from the vast lands of Kansas to the dazzling Emerald City to Kansas again during the New Buffalo Area Schools' Bison Blue Players' production of "The Wizard of Oz," March 20-22 in the Performing Arts Center.

The production brought together performers from across New Buffalo schools, with an ensemble of more than 20 students from across the district,

including fourth and fifth graders and middle school performers, who joined high school actors onstage.

Leading the cast was Angelina Bryk as Dorothy, joined by Henry Gadiel as the Scarecrow/Hunk, Kellen Fallon as the Tin Man/Hickory, Riley Castle-Brow as Auntie Em/Glinda, Bianca Illescas-Villa as Miss Gulch/Wicked Witch of the West, Aaron Ilescas-Villa as Professor/Oz and Jeff Remijas as Uncle Henry.

The production was directed by Christina Beushausen, with choreography by Amanda Tosetti. Set design was by Dwayne Whitmyer, and costumes were designed by Deb Rancatore and Eliza Shook.

Dorothy (Angelina Bryk) seeks help from Professor (Aaron Ilescas-Villa)

Dorothy (Angelina Bryk) encounters Glinda (Riley Castle-Brow)

Dorothy(Angelina Bryk) is confronted by Winkies

Dorothy (Angelina Bryk) dreams of Somewhere Over the Rainbow with Toto

The Wizard (Aaron Ilescas-Villa) presents Scarecrow (Henry Gadiel) with his diploma

Scarecrow (Henry Gadiel) and Dorothy (Angelina Bryk) sing in the cornfield

The Lion Caleb Nofs) dreams of being King of the Forest

The Munchkins perform a dance

Encountering the face of Oz (Adam Bowen) at the Gates of Emerald City

The Wizard (Aaron Ilescas-Villa) prepares to return Dorothy to Kansas

The ensemble and main cast performs a dance

The cast performs during the journey to the Witch's Castle

Tinman (Kellan Fallon), Dorothy (Angelina Bryk), Scarecrow (Henry Gadiel) and Lion (Caleb Nofs) are off to see the Wizard

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From the Dish Pit...

A HIGHSCHOOLER'S TAKE ON REAL LIFE TOPICS

BY SYLVIE DARLING

Academics in the Age of AI

I was scrubbing at the rim of an espresso mug when a high, squeaky voice piped up on the other side of the wall. "Well, with ChatGPT taking over the education system, Gen Alpha will hardly be able to write their own names by 2028." I set down my sponge and leaned closer. The woman continued, "I mean, my granddaughter wrote a report on AI last week, using AI! What's next? A robot writing her own birthday cards?"

I left work that day with an unsettled feeling in my gut. The kids in my generation never asked to be born into a time when a foreign intelligence hijacked their own intelligence. We never chose to be bombarded by biased information, pressured to keep pace with technological advancements, and forced to navigate an educational environment that both revolved around and revolted at this mysterious intelligence.

Nevertheless, here we are, and here AI is – engulfing our daily and academic lives. We have somehow accepted the mechanical pull toward easy A's and simplified tasks and watered-down versions of learning. So, how do young people feel about this? How do I? When I heard the words "ChatGPT" for the first time, I laughed. The thought of "chatting" with a mysterious, robotic figure that lurked behind my screen was absolutely ridiculous. But I sought its help with one simple question, and then another, and then five more. Soon, I found myself entangled in the addictive web of artificial intelligence. The effect?

Last week, my Spanish teacher sent an email about the serious consequences of using AI in our assignments. She explained the detriment to our character, the destruction to our education, and the definite possibility of detection. While I have never used ChatGPT to generate full papers, my writing style follows its polite yet formal cadence. Thus, I spent the next few hours guiltily scouring my paper for any indication of AI. I removed the em-dashes, muddied phrases, and added sloppy transitions between my sentences. As I turned in the paper, I realized how artificial my education had become. If I had to dumb down my writing just to prove it was real, then something must be wrong.

Yet, my generation isn't merely a blameless victim. We have made choices to embrace AI. However, I wish that educational leaders and parents could see the AI problem from our perspective. None of us opted to be born into this era, yet we are all forced to adapt to it. Forced to choose whether to partner with, ignore, or resist these mysterious, robotic figures. And with the help of leaders and parents, maybe our generation can shift towards the latter. Maybe we can still hope to live in a future where we are able to write our own names. And scribble birthday cards to our friends. And share an intelligence that is authentic, rather than artificial.

LOCAL INTELLIGENCE New Buffalo Times — SINCE 1942 —

A Writer's Life...

DURING THE GOLDEN AGE OF TELEVISION ANIMATION

BY JACK OLESKER

Peeling the Onion

Kevin was going full steam ahead with pre-production, building sets and scheduling auditions, which meant he would soon need 'sides' – sample lines of dialog from the script that the potential cast members could deliver during auditions. But Jeff and I hadn't written Word One of the Predicaments teleplay.

Frustrated, I went to see Lori. When I started to explain the situation, she uncharacteristically interrupted, just as uncharacteristically not making eye contact with me. Her voice even, she said, "I told you Kevin's running the show on Predicaments. If you have a problem then you need to discuss it with him."

This wasn't the Lori I knew, but I understood. I'd gotten a good bead on the studio hierarchy. I'd always known writing for television was an art and a craft. But now I also knew there were politics involved.

Lori and Kevin were pretty much at lateral positions – Lori in charge of writers and artists, Kevin in charge of production. There was no question about Lori's value to DIC. The same was true for Kevin. But he had a slight edge by having studio head Andy Heyward in his corner, supporting his actions. There was surely some overlap between Lori and Kevin, and they both worked well with each other and respected each other. I thought that was probably why Kevin showed Lori the respect of asking if she was okay with me working on Predicaments. On the other hand, I got the distinct impression Jeff Rose's involvement had nothing to do with Lori.

As I started out of her office, Lori confided, "Jeff Rose is Kevin's friend..."

Now I got it.

Before I went to Kevin with the problem, I did some research. It didn't give me any pleasure to prove to myself what I already knew: namely, nothing anywhere showed Jeff Rose had a single writing credit for any television series.

I felt a little sad because Jeff was a nice guy. But he wasn't a writer. I think Kevin wanted to give his friend a shot and I got that. Jean did the same thing for me, giving me a chance to write for television. The difference was, although I hadn't written for television, I was an established author.

During my time in L.A., I reluctantly came to revise the Golden Rule from "Do unto others as you would them do to you" to "Do unto other's 'before' they do to you." In other words, I wasn't going cut Jeff some slack and go down with a sinking ship. (As a happy aside, fortunately I've now lived long enough that I now go by the principle"Do unto others 'as' they do unto you.")

Still, hardened though I'd grown in the entertainment industry, I felt increasing sadder as I got closer to Kevin's office. No one likes to sink another person's hopes and dreams. But as Tom Hagen tried to explain to Sonny Corleone in The Godfather, "This is business; not personal." Kevin looked up from his desk, seeing it coming, and asked, "What?"

I tried to explain as gently as I could, telling Kevin,"You put me on Predicaments because I'm a racehorse. But no matter how hard I try, it feels like Jeff won't let us get out of the starting gate." I told him what he and I both knew: "We can't go on like this."

Kevin frowned and asked, "What do you suggest?"

I sighed...

HOROSCOPE

MARCH 26-APRIL 1, 2026

AS INTERPRETED BY SANDY "STAR" BENDT

ARIES MARCH 21—APRIL 19

You will have the opportunity to get involved with people and be part of a group project. There is much you can contribute now and it will likely increase you earning power due to the experience this situation will provide. This is the time to plan for the big purchases you are considering.

TAURUS APRIL 20—MAY 20

The chance to do what you have been imagining or hoping to do will come into focus this week. It's all about seizing opportunities and acting on things with trust in a greater force. When you do what you love, you get more in tune with a higher perspective that lines you up with your soul's purpose.

GEMINI MAY 21—JUNE 21

The energy radiating towards you is all about connecting with people that operate on a higher frequency and in interacting with them raises your vibration to align you with your inner talents. This is the time to break into a new social scene and free yourself from relationships that have gotten you off course.

CANCER JUNE 22—JULY 22

You will have the opportunity to reset commitments and transform business connections. There is a lot you can change in how you deal with people that will make things more beneficial for you and that will decrease the wait time on getting paid or getting things accomplished. Make the moves.

LEO JULY 23—AUGUST 22

The chance to reset partnerships and realign the goal or purpose of the relationship will be coming into view this week. Focus on making the situation mutually beneficial where all parties are happy and enriched by the union. If it is one sided or based on superficial concepts, it won't be sustainable.

VIRGO AUGUST 23—SEPTEMBER 22

Luck will be with you in finding the right person to help you or supply you with the resources you need to move forward with a business or home improvement idea. Completing or securing things will give you the freedom to travel and discover your next venture. This is a very auspicious and transformative time for you.

LIBRA SEPTEMBER 23—OCTOBER 22

Take the opportunity to connect with a partner and create something wonderful. Whether it is a delicious meal or redecorating the office, do things together. This is the time to set things up in a way that keeps you connected with someone but also maintains your individuality and unique skills.

SCORPIO OCTOBER 23—NOVEMBER 21

The chance to get things cleaned up and in proper working order at home will come into focus this week. Seize the opportunity to get the work done as soon as you can. If you have to reschedule your personal appointments, do it. You may not have the chance to get them to commit to a later date.

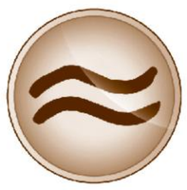
SAGITTARIUS NOVEMBER 22—DECEMBER 21

This is the time to get things off your chest and reset matters of the heart. Clearing the air will bring in a lighter and more playful vibe with people in this week. Use humor and social examples rather than making things personal when having those heart to heart talks. Let laughter brighten your space.

CAPRICORN DECEMBER 22—JANUARY 19

You will have the opportunity to reset the financial situation at home. Whether you reconfigure the terms of a loan or simply re-budget who pays for what, it will set things up for a happier environment in the future. Put your thought on creating a safe haven, where you can relax and be nurtured.

AQUARIUS JANUARY 20—FEBRUARY 18



The chance to clear the air and tell someone how you really feel about things is coming up this week, but it's your choice. You have the option of saying nothing and letting the situation play out to some strange ending but you also have the option of saying something that is potentially life changing.

PISCES FEBRUARY 19—MARCH 20

You will be in an adventurous mood this week and will be ready to try something unusual and possibly risque. Which is OK but make sure that what you do doesn't somehow conflict with your job or social standing. There's nothing wrong with having fun, just keep it above board this week.

Money doesn't make people happy. People make people happy. — *Steve Wynn*

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Sudoku

Fill in the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9.

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6		5		7	4	2	1	
			6			7		
2	9				5	6		
		4			9			7
1	5			3		9	4	
9								
				5				
	3					1		

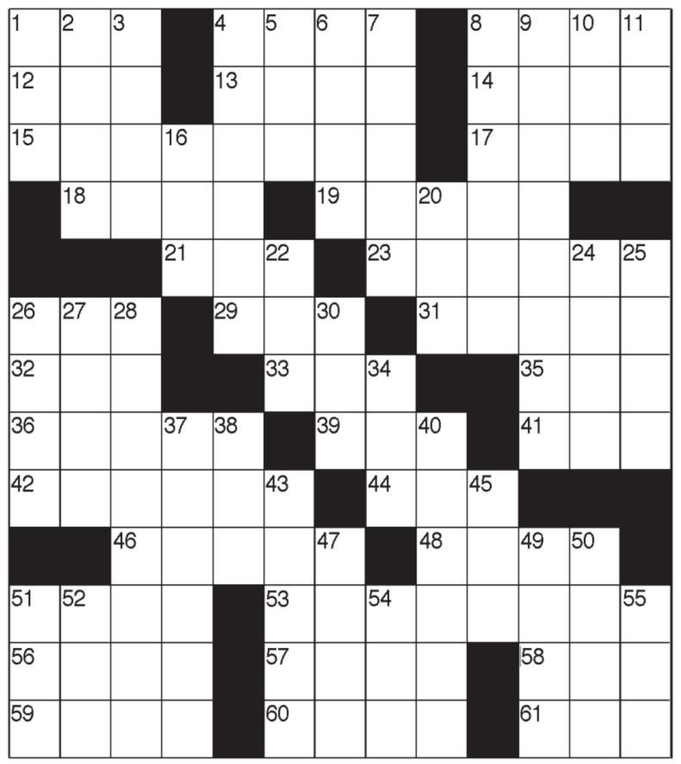
CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

1 Mass
4 Peacock blue
8 Girlfriend of Alley Oop
12 Cholesterol letters
13 Legal
14 Small Business Investment Corp. (abbr.)
15 Shaken
17 Anatomical canal
18 Serbian
19 Wild rubber
21 Canadian Expeditionary Force (abbr.)
23 Muslim sect
26 Mother of Hezekia
29 Prosecute
31 Plain moss
32 Nat'l Academy of Design (abbr.)
33 65 (Rom. numeral)
35 Dine
36 Shabby
39 Climbing vine
41 Railway Mail Service (abbr.)
42 Asp
44 Goods (abbr.)
46 Dirge
48 Counsel
51 O.T. sacred lots
53 Until (2 words)
56 Shoshonean
57 Skip
58 Amer. Ornithologists' Union (abbr.)
59 Borders
60 Circuits
61 Knight Commander of the Bath (abbr.)

DOWN

1 Greatest lower bound (abbr.)
2 Animal teeth (suf.)
3 Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen (abbr.)
4 West Point freshmen
5 Small Island (Brit.)
6 Organization for European Economic Cooperation (abbr.)
7 Naked persons
8 Egyptian deity
9 Buyer
10 Fabrication
11 Height (pref.)
16 Federal Radio Commission
20 Asian gazelle
22 Having (suf.)
24 Join
25 Food
26 Korean apricot
27 Louis opponent
28 Philosophy
30 Expense (abbr.)
34 Vegetable (abbr.)
37 Moon of Mars
38 Laos aborigine
40 Huguenot leader
43 Yuccalike plant
45 Stitch
47 Rock layer beneath oceans
49 E. Indian dye tree
50 Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (abbr.)
51 Ukraine (abbr.)
52 King (Fr.)
54 Monthly investment plan (abbr.)
55 Protuberance



PUBLIC NOTICES

NEW BUFFALO AREA SCHOOLS IS ACCEPTING STUDENTS FOR THE BISON BEGINNERS PRE-KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM AND KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS FOR THE 2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR

It is helpful to know how many students we will have as we begin planning for the 2026-2027 school year.

If you believe your child will qualify for either the Bison Beginners pre-kindergarten program or for kindergarten, please contact the elementary school office at 269-469-6060 so we can make sure your student is on our enrollment list. You can also email the elementary school's administrative assistant Jenna Wendel at jwendel@nbas.org. Please contact the office by Monday, April 6, 2026.

You will need to include the following information: child's name, birth date, parent/guardian name, address, phone number and email address.

BISON BEGINNERS

Parents/guardians that have children who will be four years old on or before September 1, 2026 are able to register their child for the Bison Beginners pre-kindergarten program. The program offers both half-day (a.m. only) or full-day sessions. Enrollment is limited to 25 students.

KINDERGARTEN

Parents/guardians with students that will be five years old on or before September 1, 2026 are able to register their child for the full-day kindergarten program.

SCHOOL OF CHOICE AND TUITION

If you do not reside in the New Buffalo Area Schools district but do live in Michigan, you are welcome to apply for the School of Choice program. Tuition is also an available enrollment option for students living out-of-state. Information and applications for both programs are on our district's website at www.nbas.org/o/nbas/page/school-of-choice-and-tuition-students.

HEARING/VISION/DENTAL SCREENING

Pre-kindergarten and kindergarten students planning to attend New Buffalo Elementary for the 2026-2027 school year will be able to have a hearing, vision and dental screening performed by the Berrien County Health Department on Tuesday, April 28, 2026 from 12:30-3:30 pm at New Buffalo Elementary. Appointments (15 minutes) are required - please call or email the school office to schedule. This screening is required by the state of Michigan for kindergarten and highly encouraged by our district for pre-kindergarten. Please bring your student's birth certificate (original or a copy), student's immunization record and parent/guardian picture ID. If you will not be attending the health screening on April 28, please contact the Berrien County Health Department at 269-926-7121, extension 5293 to schedule an appointment or visit their website for more information: Dental Hearing & Vision Screening | Berrien County, MI.

OBITUARIES

Thomas Allen Wismer

1971-2026

Thomas Allen Wismer, 52, of Benton Harbor, died suddenly after a long illness, Sunday, March 8, 2026.

His life began September 29,1971 in Buchanan, Michigan, the youngest of two children born to Larry and Sharon Wismer.

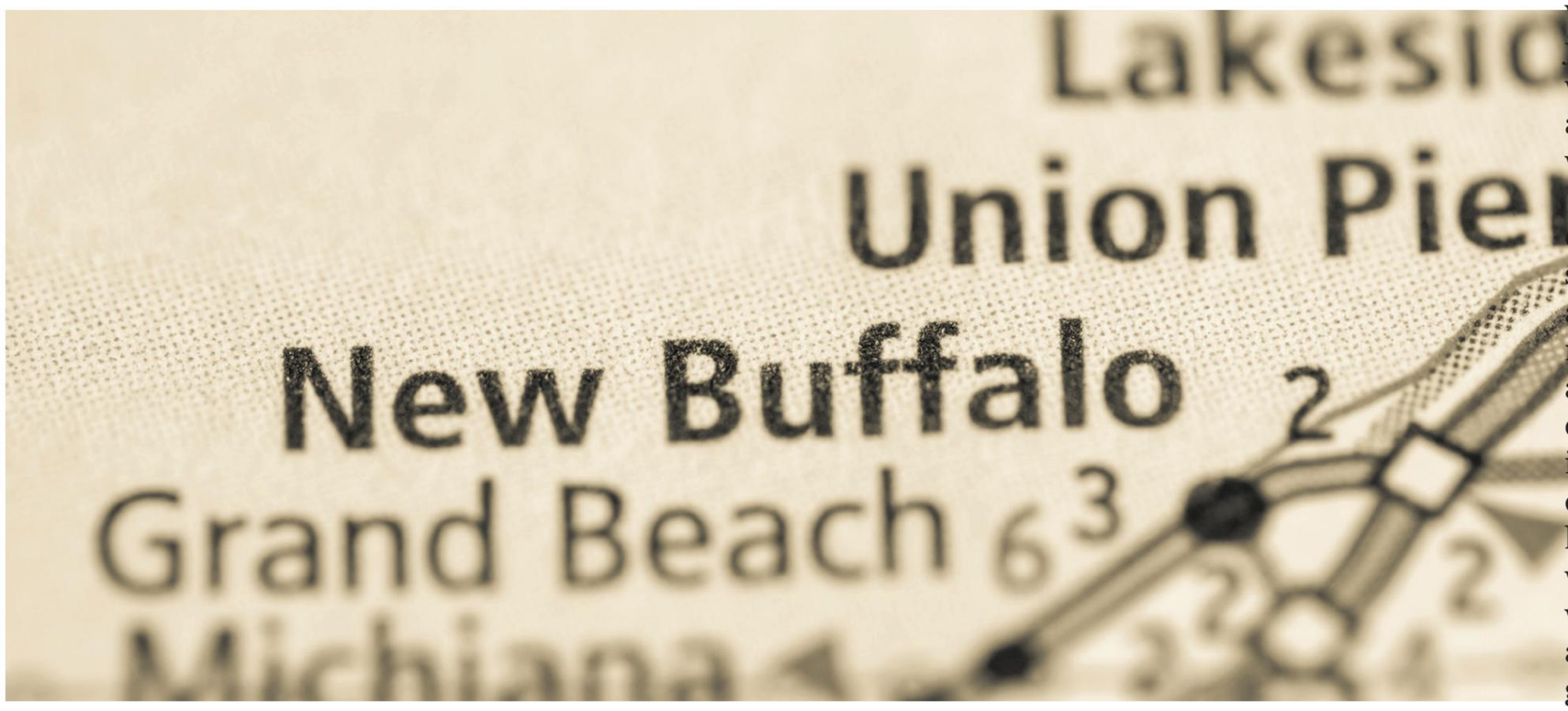
Tom spent time in the Navy repairing hydraulic systems in helicopters (HC-16; Pensacola, FL) before returning to civilian life. His love of fixing things led to a career as an auto mechanic. Health problems lead to an early retirement where he rooted from the Lions and Tigers and took care of feeding the neighborhood stray cats.

Thomas will be greatly missed by family and friends. He is survived by one son, Derek Wismer, one sister,Tina (Tim Williams) Wismer, and a host of cousins.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

The family will observe a private remembrance.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Wagner Family Funerals Pobocik Chapel, Three Oaks. Please share a memory or a message online at www.wagnercares.com.



A Day in the Life

DR. GRENIZ RETIRING...

BY LAWRENCE VON EBELER

The doctor with a sense of humor. We all loved it.

He isn't a natural- born comedian but his sense of humor would make you think he was. You'd be in his exam room with concerns and he'd have you leaving feeling jolly. His name was Dr. Grentz, besides being a great physician for over 40 years, was a great humorist as well. On top of that he was a computer nutcase. Nothing that was said or even just implied wasn't recorded in his little computer that he sat at throughout your appointment, and when it was time to leave he would slam down the lid on the computer signaling it was time to go!

It was a challenge to get in to see him since he was always busier than a one armed paper hanger. He also had two guards who kept his patients at bay. One was always busy doing odd jobs, like picking up soiled papers and paper plates in the cafeteria. It seemed to me to be an odd assignment when she was a registered nurse who had done her service in the army for years until her retirement. But she was nice, unlike the other one who was always grumpy and considered her job to be of ultimate importance, which was to keep the flow of patients smooth and god forbid you might try to sneak in when she wasn't looking!

Sometimes you might have a singular question for the doctor and she would still hold you at bay until she thought it appropriate to let you see him. On that morning I chose to approach him through a secret back door that not everyone knew existed, but I did! So I sneaked through it and saw the doctor quickly with my question when nurse Ratchet discovered I had crashed the rule and door, and I was with the doctor unauthorized! She always walked around with her arms folded across her chest looking like a Gestapo guard, and then her rough voice became a down and out scream. I ignored her and that was satisfying. She would advise you that you were two minutes early and to "go sit down!, go sit down!" I hated her, but finally we buried the hatchet and everything was fine. It happens that way sometimes when your worst enemy becomes your closest friend (Not quite the case in this instance).

The good doctor had some clear sartorial preferences. His shirts were clearly hand ironed and washed, cuffs and collars to perfection. I was curious and asked what cleaners did the good work. His answer was simple: "My wife", I was shocked. He had to be making at least a hundred grand a year and his wife is still slaving over his shirts!

Likewise his shoes were always gleaming from a freshly shined effort by someone. I finally asked who did his shoe shines thinking he had a special little shoe store. His answer? He did them!

He was held up from a big meeting by a drawing that I had done for fun. l offered to do a sketch of him before the big meeting that he had to attend, and he paced back and forth before it began late. I got inspiration and set out to draw him in a cartoon style. It turned out reasonable with a few focal nuances about his shirt and shoes shining and his stature like it always was in meetings with his body hovered over his computer, in his typical fashion. He got the biggest kick out of the little sketch that he had framed and set it on his desk.

There were several reasons why I was fond of this man. That was just one of them. I am holding a retirement party next week for him. Guests are obligated to make him a card with some of your shared stories.He will quietly concede that he is the most comfortable discussing your shortcomings. Dr. Dietmar J. Grentz at PACE says it like it is.

Mighty Mustangs lead students down Elm Street

Students spread good will, cheer in 'Kindness Walk'

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

To cap off a months long kindness campaign, students in kindergarten through fifth grade at River Valley Elementary School in Three Oaks walked in a Kindness Walk through downtown Three Oaks Monday, March 23.

Led by the Marching Mustang Band, students displayed their "Kindness" signs to bystanders along Elm Street.

Per a River Valley Elementary School Facebook post, students had been learning about kindness all school year and "creating projects to promote it."

"Today's walk was a joyful celebration of those lessons and a chance to share our kindness with the entire Three Oaks community," the post stated.

Thanks were given to the Village of Three Oaks Council for approving the street closures as well as the Three Oaks Police Department, Three Oaks Fire Department, and the Three Oaks Streets Department "for keeping everyone safe and helping make our parade possible."

Community members display signs with well wishes to students

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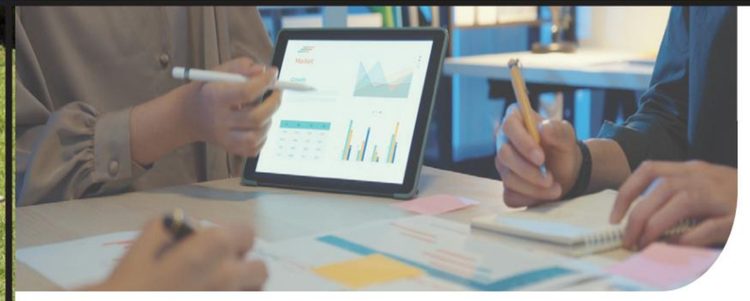
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To Your Health

COLUMN BY KAREN EDWARDS ND

FIBERMAXXING – THE NEW SPRING CLEANING

Just as it is important to spring clean our homes, it is equally important to spring clean our bodies. We have made it through a long winter of heavy proteins, too much sugar and not enough exercise. It is time to clean sweep our bodies and get back into better health and better shape.

March is National Nutrition Month. It focuses on raising awareness about making informed food choices, developing healthy eating habits, and engaging in physical activity. It emphasizes nutrient-dense foods, reading food labels, and creating sustainable, healthy routines,

Fibermaxxing is the new rage on social media, and a top trend for health and wellness in 2026. This is aboutencouraging high daily consumption of fiber-rich foods to improve gut health, reduce risks of diabetes, heart disease, and obesity. It addresses the low fiber intake in most American diets, advising a gradual increase of fiber, accompanied by high water intake. It emphasizes adding high-fiber whole foods like legumes, chickpeas, beans,quinoa, brown rice, nuts, leafy greens, chia and flax seeds, berries, apples, artichokes, cruciferous and othervegetables to meals.

Increasing fiber is a way thar we can look to our diet for better health. These high fiber foods will get your peristaltic muscle moving in your colon and increase more bowel movements to move out toxins. You will most likely increase more gas too. Don't be alarmed. This is due to gut bacteria fermenting undigested fiber in the large intestine, releasing gas as a byproduct. The human bodycannot digest Insoluble fiber. This fiber passes through the gastrointestinal tract largely intact. It does not dissolve in water, acting instead as a bulking agent to speed up the passage of food and waste through the intestines, which helps prevent constipation. We need Soluble and Insolublefiber for our gut health. All health begins in the gut.Improving gut health reduces the risk for chronic disease.

Soluble fiber dissolves in water and forms a gel-like substance. It lowers cholesterol, stabilizes blood sugar, supports fullness. Oats, beans, lentils, citrus fruits, apples, psyllium, barley.

Insoluble Fiber adds bulk to stool and speeds intestinal transit. It prevents constipation, supports bowel function. Found in whole grains, nuts, seeds, vegetables, wheat bran. This is also the diet implemented in the Blue Zone diet for longevity that I wrote about a couple weeks ago.

The goal is to promote metabolic health, prevent constipation, and support a healthy, diverse gut microbiome. Fibermaxxing also makes you feel full longer, which helps weight management and reduces snacking. It also helps lower overall cholesterol and reduces blood sugar spikes after meals. Research into the gut-brain axisshows that a high-fiber diet can influence mood and stress resilience for a healthier mental well-being.

This method popularized recipes like overnight oats chia puddings, and veggie-loaded, high-fiber nutritionalbowls.

A sudden, drastic increase in fiber can lead to bloating, gas, stomach cramps, and, constipation, if you are not keeping well hydrated.

Disclaimer: It is important to consult a healthcare provider, especially if you have existing gastrointestinal conditions.Disclaimer: Everything here is for nutritional education and is not meant to diagnose, treat prevent or cure. See your doctor when you have questions.

PET OF THE WEEK

TWINKIE

If you want some love in your life, Twinkie is your girl. She's a spayed one-year-old, weighs about 40 pounds, and, she will find your lap. Twinkie would be best in a home without cats, and would be better with strong children, as she loves to give hugs. If you take daily walks, Twinkie could be your best buddy, as her energy is enthusiastic. Everyone needs more love, and she's got it to give. Make Twinkie part of your home today.

AVAILABLE AT THE MICHIANA HUMANE SOCIETY

LOCAL INTELLIGENCE
New Buffalo Times
— SINCE 1942 —

7	2	3	5	1	8	4	9	6
6	8	5	9	7	4	2	1	3
4	1	9	6	2	3	7	8	5
2	9	8	7	4	5	6	3	1
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There's nothing we can't do
No job too small - No job too hard
24/7 - FREE ESTIMATES

WOLNIK'S DETAILED TREE SERVICE

RONNY WOLNIK II - Owner
(269)-405-0362

30 N Whittaker St
Bar by night

the FALSE FRONT
NEW BUFFALO • MI

Open Thursday-Monday
thefalsefrontbar.com

Get local help with your Medicare questions

I'm Marcie Ritter, a licensed sales agent in Southwest Michigan/Northern Indiana. When it comes to Medicare, it's important to consider all of your options. What works well for your neighbor may not be the best fit for you. I know the ins and outs of Medicare, and I'm ready to answer your questions and help you find a plan that fits your needs. **Make the most of my knowledge and experience to:**

- **Take the confusion out of Medicare**
- **Get help comparing plans**
- **Receive one-on-one service**
- **Make enrolling in a plan easier**

I look forward to helping you explore your Medicare options so you can enroll in a plan with confidence.

Call today to learn more about Medicare Advantage plans in your area

Marcie Ritter
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HOLY WEEK AND EASTER TRIDUUM SERVICES AT EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE MEDIATOR

The community is invited to experience the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ through the Liturgy at the Episcopal Church of the Mediator at 14280 Red Arrow Highway in Harbert.

On Palm Sunday at 10 a.m. March 29, there will be the Liturgy of the Palms and sermon followed by a procession to the sanctuary for the Eucharist with the reading of the Passion Narrative. A Tenebrae service will be held in the Chapel at noon Wednesday, April 1. The Maundy Thursday service will be at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, April 2, with the celebration of the Last Supper, foot washing, and the stripping of the altar. On Good Friday, April 3, there will be a liturgy with the reserved sacraments at 5:30 p.m. The Easter morning service will be at 10:30 a.m. Sunday, April 5, with Holy Baptism, Easter Bonnet Contest, and an Easter Egg Hunt immediately following the service.

The 7 p.m. Easter Vigil service Saturday, April 4, will be held jointly with St. Augustine of Canterbury Episcopal Church at 1753 Union Street in Benton Harbor.

Please contact the church office at 269-469-1441 for questions.

— STAFF REPORTS

SONNY D'S BAR & GRILL
NEW BUFFALO

Sunday, April 5 • 10am-2pm

EASTER BUNNY BRUNCH

Community Recycling Events 2026

For Berrien County residents only, business waste is not allowed.

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle Day
April 14, Tuesday, 2 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Lake Michigan College, 2755 E. Napier Ave.,
Benton Harbor, enter at Yore Avenue

ACCEPTED ITEMS AT THIS EVENT:
- Household Chemicals
- Electronics (some fees apply)
- Foam/Polystyrene
- On-Site & Off-Site Document Shredding
  **On-Site shredding limited to truck capacity*
- Used Bicycles

May 9, Saturday, 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Southeast Berrien County Landfill Recycle Center,
3200 Chamberlain Rd., Buchanan

ACCEPTED ITEMS AT THIS EVENT:
- Household Chemicals
- Electronics (some fees apply)
- Foam/Polystyrene
- Personal Documents for Free, On-site Shredding

June 2, Tuesday, 2 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Chikaming Township Hall
13535 Red Arrow Hwy., Harbet

ACCEPTED ITEMS AT THIS EVENT:
- Household Chemicals
- Electronics (some fees apply)

PLEASE NOTE THE NEW EVENT HOURS!

Sept. 12, Saturday, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Silver Beach County Park, 101 Broad St., St. Joseph

ACCEPTED ITEMS AT THIS EVENT:
- Household Chemicals
- Electronics (some fees apply)
- Foam/Polystyrene

October 3, Saturday, 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Southeast Berrien County Landfill Recycle Center,
3200 Chamberlain Rd., Buchanan

ACCEPTED ITEMS AT THIS EVENT:
- Household Chemicals
- Electronics (some fees apply)
- Foam/Polystyrene
- Personal Documents for Free, On-site Shredding

Household Chemicals

Home/garden/yard/garage chemicals and cleaners, auto chemicals, used motor oil & filters, oil-based paint, batteries, pills/medications, needles/sharps, mercury items, fluorescent light bulbs & tubes, small 1-lb propane cylinders, & more.

***NOT ACCEPTED**: latex paint, gas grill size propane tanks, ammo, fireworks.*

Electronic Waste
(fees apply on some items)

Unwanted household electronic equipment that has a cord or is battery operated such as computer monitors (**$10/monitor fee**), printers, phones, televisions (**$20/TV fee**), DVD/VCR players, small & large appliances, Freon containing items (**$10/item fee**), printer/ink cartridges, etc.

Recycled by Green Earth Electronics Recycling, 4200 Niles Rd, St. Joseph, (269) 326-1232, website: greenearth1.com.

Freon Items **($10/item fee)** include refrigerators, mini-fridge, freezers, AC units, dehumidifiers, water coolers.

Foam/Polystyrene

Ice chests, foam cups, clean foam "to-go" food containers, egg cartons, foam block packaging, pink & blue Styrofoam. Must be clean and dry.

***NOT ACCEPTED**: packing peanuts, soft foam*

Personal Documents
On-Site Shredding

Paper documents only, including office paper, mail, folders, checkbooks, etc. No need to remove staples or paper clips.

***NOT ACCEPTED**: CDs, disks, x-rays, driver's license, binder clips, 3-ring binders, cardboard, books, plastic, metal, other non-paper items.*

*FOR APRIL 14 EVENT: On-site shredding limited to one truck capacity, remaining documents to be shredded off-site.

Donations are accepted to help pay for collection costs.

Medication & Sharps Disposal

Proper medication disposal prevents misuse & abuse of medications and protects the environment.

PILLS, LIQUIDS, AEROSOLS, NEEDLES / SHARPS
Berrien County Community Recycling Events

PILLS ONLY
Call ahead to confirm locations are accepting materials.

Baroda Lake Twp. Police Department
3169 Shawnee Rd., Bridgman

Bridgman Police Department
9765 Maple St., Buchanan

Buchanan City Police Department
720 E. Front St., Buchanan

Chikaming Township Police Department
13535 Red Arrow Hwy., Harbert

Coloma Charter Twp. Police Department
4919 Paw Paw Lake Rd., Coloma

Martin's Supermarket Pharmacy
5637 Cleveland Ave., Stevensville

Meijer Pharmacy
1920 Pipestone Rd., Benton Harbor
5019 Red Arrow Hwy., Stevensville

New Buffalo Police Department
224 W. Buffalo St., New Buffalo

Niles Law Enforcement Complex
1600 Silverbrook Ave., Niles

Walgreens
1260 Hilltop Rd., St. Joseph
907 S. 11th St., Niles

Dump pills out of bottles into a bag.
Call ahead for specific instructions.

Visit the website for a full list of safe disposal options.

FOR MORE NFORMATION
Berrien County Parks
(269) 983-7111
x8232 or x8133
recycle@berriencounty.org
berriencounty.org/recycle

Follow & Like!